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## APR 9 1986

## MULTIPLE LETTERS

Mr. James Speir, Vice President Phosphate Operations International Minerals and Chemical Corporation P.O. Box 7047 Lakeland, Florida 33807

Dear Mr. Speir:

The Department of Energy is evaluating the radiological condition of sites that were utilized by the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) during the early years of nuclear energy development to determine whether they need remedial action and whether the Department has authority to perform such action. As you may be aware through previous correspondence, the International Minerals and Chemical Corporation facility in Mulberry, Florida, was identified as one such site, as a result of some research, development, and pilot plant work conducted at the site during the early 1950's. The purpose of this effort was to develop a process to extract uranium compounds from phosphoric acid.

This letter along with the enclosed elimination report and preliminary survey report represent the results of the Department's review to determine if the site contains residual radioactive contamination traceable to the activities conducted on behalf of the AEC. The reports are being provided to you, as the representative of the site owner, for your information. While the preliminary survey, conducted in 1977, did identify concentrations of radium in soil in excess of the guidelines used by the Department of Energy for properties which have no restrictions on their use, the contamination was attributed to commercial operations at the site and not to work conducted for the AEC. It is noted that the concentrations measured are in a range typical of those found at operations processing Florida phosphate ore.

Therefore, on the basis of this review and because the radioactivity identified cannot be attributed to the AEC work, the Department has determined that it does not have authority under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to conduct remedial action at this site if needed. As a result, the site is being eliminated from further consideration under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. We are notifying the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Florida by copy of this letter, of this action and associated findings.

Documentation supporting the Department's decision is available for public review at the Department's Public Reading Room located in Room 1E-190 of

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the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. If you have any questions regarding this decision or the availability of the material at the reading room, please contact me at 301-353-4716.

Sincerely,

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Edward G. DeLaney, Director Division of Facility and Site Decommissioning Projects Office of Nuclear Energy

## 2 Enclosures

cc:

A. Smith, Superfund Coordinator EPA Region IV, Atlanta, Georgia H. Snyder, EPA, Washington, D.C. L. Jerrett, Director, Off. of Health and Rehabilitative Service Tallahassee, Florida

bcc:

E. Keller, OR
V. DeCarlo, EH-123
C. Welty, EH-23
S. Miller, GC-11
G. Turi, NE-23
Aerospace

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